

For more information:

Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association

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Conway, MA 01341-9772
413-369-4731
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Department of Agricultural Resources

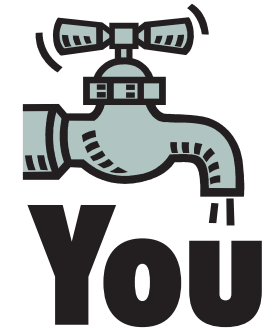
(formerly Department of Food and Agriculture)
Pesticide Bureau
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500
Boston, MA 02114
617-626-1700
www.state.ma.us/dfa/pesticides/

Department of Environmental Protection

Source Water Protection Program
One Winter Street
Boston, MA 02108
617-556-1157
www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/dwspubs.htm

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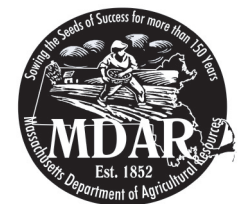


**can help protect our
drinking water.**

The Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP)

*A Guide for Nursery,
Landscape and Lawn Care
Professionals*

**Massachusetts Department of
Agricultural Resources**



How does SWAP affect nursery, landscape and lawn care professionals?

You and members of your industry are concerned with having sufficient quantity of water as well as preventing water pollution. Certain land uses could compromise the quality of drinking water supplies. In Massachusetts, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has ranked lawn care, fertilizer storage and use, nurseries and composting facilities as medium potential threats to drinking water supplies. Pesticide storage or use is ranked as a high potential threat.

Many of these land management practices, if not all of them, affect your business in some way.

What is SWAP?

SWAP is the **S**ource **W**ater **A**ssessment & **P**rotection program created by Congress in 1996. It is a program designed to help keep everyone informed about the quality of drinking water in his or her community. Through this program, Massachusetts is developing a SWAP report for each public water system that describes potential threats to the water supply caused by specific land uses.



What can you do to help limit the impact of your business on the drinking water supply?

There are many things that you can do and may already be doing, to help protect the public's water supply. Here are a few general recommendations to consider:

Find out if you are working in a drinking water protection zone (referred to as Zone I, Zone II, WPA or Zone A, Zone B and Zone C).

You can find out the locations of these protection zones by going to the following internet site:
<http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/wspa/> or you can call the Department of Environmental Protection's Drinking Water Program at 617-556-1157.

Remember to inform your staff if you are working in a drinking water protection zone.

Do you know the recommended Best Management Practices, or BMPs, for your industry and are you implementing them wherever possible?

One great source of best management practices for your industry entitled **Best Management Practices: Nutrient Management of Nursery, Landscape and Turf** can be ordered from the Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association (MNLA) at 413-369-4731.

Another good source is a publication by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service entitled **Water Quality and**

Professional Lawn Care authored by A. H. Bruneau, L. T. Lucas, and S. C. Hodgesand. This can be downloaded from the following website: <http://www.turffiles.ncsu.edu/pubs/wqwm155.html>.

Remember to train your staff on using appropriate best management practices.

Are you, or do you need to be, a certified Pesticide Applicator with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources?

If you apply pesticides you need to be certified by the Department of Agricultural Resources (formerly the Department of Food and Agriculture). You can call the Department at 617-626-1700 or check the internet: www.state.ma.us/dfa/pesticides/

Are you reading all label directions on mixing, storing and using for fertilizers and pesticides and following them correctly?

This is the law!

Is disposal of empty pesticide and fertilizer containers or old product done in a correct manner?

Please check the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources website for more information: www.state.ma.us/dfa/pesticides/waste/index.htm.

Talk to your customers and let them know what steps you are taking to protect them and their water supply-they may reward you for being a good steward to the earth by doing more business with your company!